

10 Southwell Gardens SW
25 Nov 187

My dear Gray - We returned too late to see Mrs Gray & you before your departure from this old country, but I have been very glad to get good news of you from Hooker - Lady Hooker has been in trouble - the death of his father has been soon followed by that of her last surviving brother who has been a victim to typhoid fever at Tonga just after his promotion to a better post - that of consul at Samoa -

Our summer was not spent exactly as we had proposed - we had secured rooms at Mürren above Lauterbrunnen when meeting a man descending on a bicycle as we ascended by zigzags a rather steep slope in a little carriage near Kaudersteg our horse took fright & bolted upsetting the carriage & throwing us out - Four feet further the result w^d

have been tragical & a respectable
alpine career w^d have ended ignominiously
we were both much bruised and I
broke a rib the result of which was
to spend four weeks tightly strapped
up - not allowed to go up or down hill
or to ride - It is not a serious
accident as it leaves no unpleasant
consequences -

I have been coughing much since
our return the result of a cold
brought back from Italy but I am
now nearly acclimatised as I hope

I see that Mr Howell is about
to collect in the Sandwich Islands
If it be not too late I sh^d like to
be put down as a subscriber for
his collections but don't know where
to address him - Will you kindly
manage that for me if possible -
I have not heard anything of
Mr Pringle - If he has been again
in Mexico I shall hope to get

my share of the harvest -

It is hard work to manage
a herbarium without assistance
& most of my time is spent in
mere arrangement -

I hope to send ^{you} this winter a rather
large lot of ~~books~~ duplicates that
I put aside last year but writing
the labels takes much time -

I hope to be excused if most of
them are written in pencil
with affectionate messages from
my wife to Mr Gray & yourself
& my kind remembrances to
Mr Watson

Ever truly yours

John Ball -